



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_24_0752

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 11/09/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0752

On 14/08/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Please release the following information relating to people missing in your force area in the following time periods:

- 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023
- 1 January 2024 to 31 May 2024

1. How many individual children were reported missing to your force?
2. How many individual adults were reported missing to your force?
3. How many total missing incidents were reported to your force related to children going missing?
4. How many total missing incidents were reported to your force related to adults going missing?
5. How many missing incidents resulted in a fatality? Please provide the numbers for children and adults separately
6. Please could you share the causes of death in those fatal cases

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary may hold some relevant information.

When an Individual contacts the police and it is deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. Please note that the Incident Recording System is largely a free text entry system and does not record information in as much detail as other systems and therefore its reporting function is limited.

In order to identify whether a recorded incident is confirmed as a missing person, and then identify whether the report is in relation to a child or an adult, a manual review of all relevant incident reports would be required. As over 2,000 records have been recorded for

the date ranges of your request, this would take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below for suggestions on how you can refine your request to come within the cost constraints of section 12 of the Act.

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

In relation to your request Section 12 applies.

Section 12(1)– Fee Regulations states:

Section 1(1) of the Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. (As detailed in the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Fees Regulations of 2004)

The appropriate limit at the moment is £450 calculated at an hourly rate of £25 per hour for all staff time incurred in:

- i. Determining whether information is held
- ii. Locating it
- iii. Retrieving it
- iv. Extracting the information to be disclosed from the other information.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for your request.

Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, provides the opportunity to assist the applicant with any suggestions or variation that may allow a search to be undertaken within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

I confirm that the Constabulary could provide the following:

Once a person has been reported missing and is confirmed as such, a record is created on the missing persons case management system, Compact, and it is possible to extract more detailed information from this system. Any information provided from this system will be in relation to confirmed missing episodes. If you wish to submit a request for searches to be made of the Compact system, please let us know.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary